

534 Rec'd PCT/US TO 22 NOV 2000

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Asst. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, between lines 1 and 2, insert --This United States patent application is a national filing from PCT/GB99/01094, international filing date 09 April 1999. PCT/GB99/01094 claims the priority of GB 9811308.7, 26 May 1998, and PCT/GB98/03433, 13 November 1998. The priority of GB 9811308.7, PCT/GB98/03433 and PCT/GB99/01094 are claimed under 35 USC 119 for this United States patent application. --

Page 3, line 9, after "provided" insert --,--

~~Page 5, line 19, after "removed" insert --,-- .~~

Page 6, line 10, cancel "US-A-24,815,618" and insert --U.S.  
Patent No. 4,815,618-- .

Page 6, line 16, after "invention" insert --,--